CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT		
SUBJECT	Prices of Commodities, Currency Exchanges, Industrial and Agricultural Conditions, and Government Regulations in Kwangtung Province	DATE DISTR.	24 February 1955	
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	This is UNEVALUATED Information			

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE. THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- in Tou-men (N 23-32, E 116-44), Kwangtung Province, the Chinese Communist Government would lend JMP 18,000 on each hundred catties of grain. The purchase of pens, papers, and stationery to supply two children 25X1 in school amounted to JMP 80-90,000. Monthly family expenses ran to at least several hundred thousand JMP. Rent in Canton was JMP 100,000 per month. A Singer sewing machine cost JMP 2,100,000; a dead cow was sold for JMP 400,000; it cost JMP 50,000 to make a black cloth shirt and goods were not readily available; vegetables cost JMP 150,000 per catty; and duck eggs cost JMP 650 each. A wedding cost a minimum of HK\$1,500 and a funeral cost JMP 3,000,000.
- 2. The following currency exchanges were made in Kwangtung Province during the early part of 1954: HK\$300 - JMP 1,281,000; US\$15 - HK\$84.50; more than HK\$500 - JMP 2,000,000; HK\$455 - JMP 1,870,000; US\$10 - JMP 234,000; HK\$300 -JMP 1,242,500; HK\$400 - JMP 1,500,000.
- 3. In Szup'ing, (0934/1627) Kwangtung Province, 50-60 persons joined together to form a shoe manufacturing concern, each putting in \$200,000 / sic 7 as capital and borrowing the remaining necessary funds from the bank. The Government ordered, purchased, and sold the shoes manufactured there. Because the early 1954 season was a slow one, sales were light and working days were irregular. Sometimes the laborers worked 10-20 days and sometimes 8-10 days.
- 4. Labor unions were strongly organized; one person returning laborer could not obtain permission to join a labor union and consequently could find only temporary work.
- 5. A labor cooperative would lend money to poor families; however, it was rare that a family with a member overseas received a loan. In Ch'ih-k'an (N22-20, E 112-36), money was borrowed from the bank to pay for a funeral; and the head of the farmers' association, who was at the same time chief of the village, and nine other persons had to sign the request. The cooperative in Shinch'iao Hsiang (N 22-56, E 113-22)

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STATE ARMY (NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".) (1,

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took charge of the postal business for the district and delivered mail in the village. The salary of a worker in a cooperative was JMP 80-90,000.3

- 6. A small machinery plant in Canton, was for sale for HK\$ 1,400. A barber's helper in Shuihsiyu (3055/6007/0962) worked hard and earned only enough money for cigarettes.
- 7. Four acres of land were allotted by the Government, which collected such a rent that the produce from the land was not enough to supply one person's needs. A member of the military service was allotted five acres of poor land, which his family was allowed to rent out. Villagers without a place to live were allotted housing, and for persons who wished to rent their houses it was therefore difficult to find tenants. The government wanted farmers to plant rice and to utilize all the land. Some farmers therefore planted rice instead of the sugar cane they had planned to plant. Records were kept of the work done by each person. Villagers in Chiaoli (5414/0519) received good profits from raising oysters. It was necessary to have an ox to join a mutual farming organization. Each shih (4258) produced 6-7 lo (5012) of grain and the tax on three shih was 16 lo. The state of the sugar cane they had necessary to have an ox to join a mutual farming organization.
- 8. A government regulation stated that a primary school student would be graduated after four years of study. Each semester had 19 weeks. It cost JMP 1,200,000 1,300,000 to go to middle school. One year of instruction in sewing, including tuition, cost JMP 1,000,000.
- 9. A new law permitted males to marry at 20, females at 11. Marriage might not take place if the age requirement were not met. Dissolution of marriages already consummated might be obtained on these grounds.
- 10. A young man who was registered in his native village instead of in the city of Canton who wanted to go to Hong Kong would not be issued a permit by the hsiaotsu (1420/4809) in his village, because he was healthy and educated.

	Comments	25 X 1
ı.	This figure was considered high	25 X 1
2.	There is no indication as to whether the figure given referred to days per month.	
3.	No indication was given of the frequency of payment.	⁷ 25 X 1
4 . [industry in Canton is primarily handcraft in addition, one must live in Canton City in order to work there. without capital there can be no profits in business.	25X1 25X1 25X1
5.	all the country people are in difficulties	25X1 25X1
6.	There is some implication that the villagers raised oysters as a sideline.	25 X 1
7.	Comment. Shih (4258) presumably means acre, although the word for acre is mou (3965). It is not known how many catties or pounds there are in a lo (5012).	25X1
8.	Comment. It is assumed that there are two semesters per school year.	25X

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